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Trade and Development Board
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Multi-year Expert Meeting on Investment, Innovation and Entrepreneurship for Productive Capacity-building and Sustainable Development
Sixth session
Geneva, 2 and 3 July 2018
Item 2 of the provisional agenda
Adoption of the agenda

Provisional agenda and annotations

I. Provisional agenda

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II. Annotations to the provisional agenda

Item 1
Election of officers

1. It is recommended that the Multi-year Expert Meeting elect a Chair and a Vice-Chair-cum-Rapporteur.

Item 2
Adoption of the agenda

2. The provisional agenda for the meeting is reproduced in chapter I above. A detailed programme will be available one week before the meeting.

Documentation

TD/B/C.II/MEM.4/16 Provisional agenda and annotations

Item 3
Effectively harnessing science, technology and innovation to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals

3. The focus of discussion at the sixth session of the Multi-year Expert Meeting on Investment, Innovation and Entrepreneurship for Productive Capacity-building and Sustainable Development will be the issues addressed in paragraph 55 (t) of the Nairobi Maafikiano, which states that UNCTAD should "promote effective international and national policies to help developing countries harness science, technology, innovation and entrepreneurship as an effective means of implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, through policy analysis, sharing of experiences and policy-oriented capacity-building" (TD/519/Add.2).

4. Harnessing the potential of science, technology and innovation, closing technology gaps and scaling up capacity-building at all levels are essential in the shift towards sustainable development and poverty eradication that is central to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. This represents a formidable challenge for many developing countries, as they lack advantages with regard to the availability of human capital with the necessary knowledge and skills, as well as advanced material and non-material infrastructure.

Effectively harnessing science, technology and innovation to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals involves identifying, accessing, adopting, adapting and using a vast range of technologies. Doing so depends in turn on the capabilities of firms, farmers, public officials, researchers, financial institutions and other stakeholders, as well as on the efficiency of linkages between them that constitute an innovation system. Effective relevant international and national policies are also essential to enable science, technology and innovation to fully deliver on the potential contribution to achieving the Goals. In this regard, the support that UNCTAD provides to developing countries through programmes such as national science, technology and innovation policy reviews could benefit from the adaptation of analytical frameworks and operational practices, to fully take into account all of the dimensions of sustainable development expressed in the 2030 Agenda.

5. The Multi-year Expert Meeting may wish to consider options and recommendations for countries to:

(a) Formulate and implement policies to stimulate technological development and to connect proactive innovation efforts with broader efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

(b) Include in national science, technology and innovation policy frameworks new approaches such as digitally enabled open and collaborative innovation, inclusive innovation, social innovation and grass-roots innovation;

(c) Benefit from experiences and lessons learned from international partnerships for technological learning and development, to promote access to technologies by developing countries and to help diffuse innovative solutions.

6. The discussion could also contribute to redefining the framework for the implementation of UNCTAD technical assistance with regard to national science, technology and innovation policy reviews.

7. To facilitate the discussion, the UNCTAD secretariat has prepared a background document entitled "Effectively harnessing science, technology and innovation to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals". In addition, experts are encouraged to prepare brief papers on the subject under discussion. These papers will be made available at the meeting in the form and language in which they are received.

Documentation

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Item 4
Report of the meeting

8. The report of the Multi-year Expert Meeting will be submitted to the Investment, Enterprise and Development Commission at its next session.